

and choices in their health care policies, in their Medicare policies.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I object to the letter being introduced.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, we are not going to divide this country over health care. We are going to bring them together and fight for better health care for our children and our seniors and everyone.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas, the distinguished member of the Health Subcommittee on the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. DOGGETT.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, of course, that letter is one of many endorsements of groups coming together because they know that today they are improving health care for our oldest Americans and our youngest Americans.

Unfortunately, my home State of Texas has the distinction of being number one in children with no health insurance, largely due to the indifference of then Governor George Bush who responded too late and too little. His indifference to the health crisis now is hardly surprising given his indifference then.

The Republican prescription drug plan, the largest entitlement increase in recent history, is a study in how to let Medicare "wither on the vine" at the time they inject waste, fraud and abuse into the system.

Now Republicans are using every available obstructionist tactic to block our reforms, to curb their own excesses, such as their lavishing billions on big insurance companies. Despite their professed interest in controlling entitlement spending, only two of their 21 committee amendments would have reduced spending and the vast majority would have increased spending on borrowed money.

Their sermons about Medicare insolvency are betrayed by their insistence on undermining it, and their silly claims of "socialized medicine" are belied by the bill's endorsement by the American Medical Association and the AARP.

Approve this rule and afford seniors and children the health care that Republican obstructionism would deny them.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1¾ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that 10 minutes be added to debate equally divided between both the majority and the minority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

Ms. CASTOR. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Welcome to the new Democrat-run House of Representatives: No debate added time. No regular order hearings. Closed rules. Welcome.

Mr. BUYER. It is disappointing that the objection was so loud and clear.

I do remember coming here in the minority, and at the time it was referred to as the Imperial Congress. It has not taken you very long to get back to where you were. That is disappointing. When I look at what is happening, you have the votes, you have the majority.

When I think about what just happened to the Commerce Committee, I have such great respect for JOHN DINGELL.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I have great respect for JOHN DINGELL and how awkward he must feel that the leadership of this Congress took jurisdiction from his committee. Now, this is the same man that has respected the rules of process and procedure that has taught many of us in this House.

I think about the intolerance right now that the majority has of other people's views and opinions. That is very, very disheartening; and the American people should know and recognize what is happening here is wrong.

I just appeal to you once again, you have the votes. Do not turn Congress into an undemocratic institution. Think about when you were in the minority. There were times yet you didn't like what happened, but you had your opportunity to be heard. Yes, you may have lost an amendment or been voted down here or there. It is part of the democratic process.

Do not shut down the democratic process. That's what you have done on this bill. We should be reauthorizing the SCHIP program for children. Republicans created this bill. Let's do a clean bill. That's what we should be doing here on the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are once again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Let me thank the gentleman for yielding as we continue the debate on ensuring children's health care.

Madam Speaker, let me bring up another point, and that is something that has been debated. Despite all the things we talk about here, there is nothing more important than protecting this country. Regrettably, I lost more people in Staten Island in Brooklyn than any other district in this country on 9/11. We should be

doing everything possible to ensure that our intelligence community is preventing terrorist attacks. Right now, Congress, I believe, is abdicating its responsibility. That's why I urge my colleagues to defeat the rule and urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question on the rule.

If the previous question is defeated, we will immediately bring legislation to the floor to solve an intelligence gap. Very simply this, the American people need to know, if there is a foreigner on foreign soil, if there is an area in Afghanistan where the intelligence community knows for a fact that there are terrorists plotting attacks to kill Americans, right now, without a court order, we can't listen to those conversations. That's irresponsible.

If we want to help and protect the American people to the best of our ability, we will allow our intelligence community to listen to foreigners on foreign soils whose sole objective is to kill more Americans and our allies without a court order or obtaining a warrant.

If we have another attack, God forbid, I would like to see Members in this body rush to the floor and explain why they wouldn't allow our intelligence community to listen to foreigners on foreign soil who want to only do one thing, kill us.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it's my understanding the gentlewoman from Florida is indicating she has no additional speakers and that she would choose to close?

Ms. CASTOR. That is correct, Madam Speaker. I will reserve until Mr. SESSION closes.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises the House that the Chair intends to adhere to strict timelines when closing the first vote in subsequent vote series. The cooperation of all Members is appreciated.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 172, nays 246, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 783]

YEAS—172

Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Bonner
Akin	Biggert	Bono
Alexander	Bilbray	Boozman
Bachmann	Bilirakis	Boustany
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Brady (TX)
Baker	Blackburn	Brown (GA)
Barrett (SC)	Blunt	Brown (SC)
Bartlett (MD)	Boehner	Buchanan